

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

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R 221425Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6250

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR XR RO

SUBJECT: BACKGROUND TO CEAUSESCU'S LATIN AMERICAN TOUR

1. SUMMARY. ON HIS TOUR OF EIGHT LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES (ADDRESSES PLUS CUBA) STARTING AUGUST 28, PRESIDENT NICOLAE CEAUSESCU WILL AGAIN BE SEEKING INCREASED POLITICAL PRESTIGE AMONG THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES AS WELL AS HEIGHTENED IDENTIFICATION WITH THEM, WHILE ATTEMPTING TO EXPAND EXPORT MARKETS AND DIVERSIFY SUPPLY SOURCES TO BOLSTER ROMANIA'S FOREIGN TRADE POSITION. END SUMMARY.

2. CEAUSESCU WILL CONTINUE TO IDENTIFY ROMANIA WITH COUNTRIES OF THIRD WORLD AND TO SOLICIT THEIR SUPPORT, AS DURING SWING THROUGH AFRICA IN SPRING 1972. IN ACCORDANCE WITH MORE RECENT ROMANIAN PRACTICE, HE WILL

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ALSO TRY TO OBTAIN JOINT "DECLARATIONS OF PRINCIPLES" WITH

AS MANY STATES AS POSSIBLE ALONG LINES OF THOSE WITH PAKISTAN, ITALY, FRG, ETC. THESE STATEMENTS WOULD PREFERABLY BE IN ADDITION TO JOINT COMMUNIQUE ALTHOUGH ROMANIANS HAVE BEEN WILLING TO COMBINE THE TWO IF OTHER PARTY INSISTS. THE PRINCIPLES INCLUDE NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY, NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS, EQUALITY, AND THE RIGHT OF EVERY NATION TO DETERMINE ITS OWN DESTINY AND TO CONTROL THE DISPOSITION OF ITS NATURAL RESOURCES. CEAUSESCU SEES HIS DEMONSTRATIVE SHOWS OF FRIENDSHIP WITH THIRD WORLD STATES AND LEADERS AS PROVIDING A MORAL COUNTER TO SOVIET POWER.

3. PRE-VISIT PRESS BUILDUP HAS STRESSED COMMONALITY OF LATIN AMERICAN STATES AND ROMANIA AS "DEVELOPING COUNTRIES" SEEKING TO BECOME "MASTERS OF THEIR OWN ECONOMIC FATE" AND "ACTIVE INDEPENDENT FACTORS" IN INTERNATIONAL LIFE. CEAUSESCU WILL NO DOUBT PUSH FOR MORE FORMAL ACCEPTANCE OF ROMANIA IN UNCTAD'S "DEVELOPING NATION" CLUB. A "CONVERGENT POSITION" IN THE UNITED NATIONS, UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND DISARMAMENT AND OTHER FORUMS MAY GET SPECIAL ATTENTION.

4. CEAUSESCU, COMMITTED TO AN EXTRAORDINARILY HIGH INVESTMENT RATE IN INDUSTRIAL SECTOR AND RELYING UPON IMPORTS OF WESTERN EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY PAYABLE IN HARD CURRENCY, WILL BE SEEKING OUTLETS FOR SUCH ROMANIAN PRODUCTS AS DRILLING EQUIPMENT, MACHINE TOOLS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, AND TRACTORS. "COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE" ACCORDS WITH CUBA, CHILE, PERU AND VENEZUELA, SOME JOINT VENTURES, AND AN ATOMIC ENERGY AGREEMENT WITH ARGENTINA ALREADY EXIST. BUT WITH FEW RESOURCES TO SPARE FOR AID, ROMANIA'S "ASSISTANCE" USUALLY HAS AMOUNTED TO COMMERCIAL OR BARTER ARRANGEMENTS.

5. CEAUSESCU HAS HAD LIMITED CONTACT WITH LA LEADERS. PERON MADE A BRIEF UNOFFICIAL TOURIST STOP IN BUCHAREST SHORTLY BEFORE HIS RETURN TO POWER. WHEN CASTRO VISITED ROMANIA ON HIS 1972 TOUR OF EASTERN EUROPE, BOTH INDEPENDENT-MINDED COMMUNIST LEADERS MADE PUBLIC SHOW OF CORDIALITY BUT THERE WAS NOT MUCH REAL WARMTH. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ROMANIA'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC TIES WITH THE ALLENDE GOVERNMENT IN CHILE HAVE ALREADY EXPANDED CONSIDERABLY. MARTENS

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